

THE CHEYENNE TRANSPORTER.

PUBLISHED SEMI MONTHLY.

In the Interest of Indian Civilization and Progress.

TERMS, \$1.00 A YEAR, IN ADVANCE.

THE PANAMA CANAL.

A Sickly, Forsaken, Poverty-Stricken People.

Dr. Charles Peitzch, a German physician of New York, has just returned from Aspinwall and Panama, and gives a very gloomy account of the country and the prospects of the De Lesseps Canal scheme. "If any of your friends think of going to Panama," said the doctor to a Tribune reporter, "advise them not to. In all my travels I never saw a more sickly, poverty-stricken and forsaken people. I was induced to go there by the promise of a large business in my profession. There was plenty for me to do, but no money in it, and I came away as soon as I could. There are about 250 people at work on the Panama canal, 200 of whom are negroes. Half of them are sick, haggard and starving, and the death rate is alarming, although the facts are suppressed as much as possible. There are not more than 100 able-bodied men to work at any time, and the force is constantly being renewed, because the laborers fall victims to disease, then lose their places and starve, or die of fever and a peculiar wasting away of the system. The canal company wants to get all the laborers possible, and it offers the inducement of high wages, board, plenty of work and free passage. Agents gather laborers up wherever they can find them and take them by boat to Aspinwall and rail to Panama. They receive \$17 a month, and the worst board imaginable. They are crowded into shanties and fed on the cheapest kinds of food; rice twice a day, tea or coffee in the morning only, salt beef once a day, and no bread; fresh meat, never. Once there, it is impossible for laborers ever to return, as the men have no money, and it costs \$25 to ride back to Aspinwall, a distance of forty-seven and a half miles, and they are too weak to walk. White people soon become yellow and look like death, and beg tourists to take them away.

"Work is advancing very slowly on the canal, and there is nothing to show for the money spent. It is generally believed in that country that the canal will never be finished. It is about as wide as Broadway from house to house. There are some stakes driven down and planks laid along and the earth stirred up a little, but that is all. It seems hardly possible to live in that country. It is marshy and malarial, and infested with alligators and serpents and poisonous insects. I was bitten in the hand by a poisonous insect, and my arm has swollen up and been useless for a month. The population is composed of negroes and Spanish and French of the lowest class. The climate is warm—terribly warm—moist and oppressive, and tends to induce the use of stimulants. St. Louis beer costs thirty-five cents a bottle, Milwaukee beer twenty-five cents. Whisky is cheap, and the best imported Holland gin only 40 cents a quart. Beef and fish are very plentiful and cheap, as are also fabrics. On the whole, the country is no place for any but a very patient man with plenty of money."

An old peach-tree near Vallejo, Cal., has developed a singular freak. A bud voluntarily appeared from a two-inch limb which this year bore a dozen or more sweet, soft-shell almonds, while nothing but insignificant peaches were produced by the remainder of the tree. The bud started about four feet from the ground. No other features are observable to indicate that the tree is any other than an ordinary peach tree.

□ E. H. Fisk, of Huntington, Mass., has a pair of mules at work repairing Church's reservoir dam, one of which is known to be over 60 years old, and the other is said to be about 40.

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Perils of the Republic.

Col. R. G. Ingersoll.

Everything in this world that is good has to be defended; everything that is bad will take care of itself. There is the same difference between vice, as between truth and falsities, that there is between grain and weeds. We have to plow the land; and we have to sow the seed with great labor, and gather the crops of everything that is useful; but weeds and dog-fennel sowed by chance and cared for by accident, will grow in the highway; and so it is with every thing of account in this world. The battle of right is never won. Fight as long as you may, the argument will never be changed. After four years of war in the United States the question that we endeavored to settle by the sword are as unsettled as they were in 1859. These questions must be settled not only by the bayonet, but by argument. All that the war settled is who were the strongest. War only makes the contestants stop and listen, and the result has to be argued out, not fought out; and so to day we are arguing the question in defense of which millions of men risked their lives, and that question is just as open and unsettled to-night as it was then.

We have a country, the best I think, in this world. I hold all other forms of government in supreme contempt except the free republican form of government. I look upon kings, princes and noblemen as men robed in the livery of larceny, and wearing the insignia of robbery. When I speak of a free republican form of government I confine myself to the northern and western states of this government. This government is good simply because life, liberty and property are better secured in the northern and western states of this union than in any other part of the inhabitable globe. We have taken the men that other governments have robbed and trampled upon, and the second generation have been superior to the nobility of the countries from which their fathers emigrated. We have given to every man coming to the states I have spoken of, an equal opportunity for winning applause and power with ourselves. I like this country because we all admit that labor is honorable, and because it is admitted, here in New England, that the laboring man is worthy of his hire.

The Density of the Earth.

r. Walterhofer, in Popular Science Monthly for October.

Efforts have been made, at all times in which the spirit of investigation can be said to have existed, to ascertain the condition of the interior of the earth. There has been no lack of unfounded assumptions on the subject, and fanciful hypotheses were held even down to a period in which correct conclusions have been reached upon it—to the beginning of the nineteenth century. Alexander von Humboldt relates that he and Sir Humphrey Davy were several times invited by Captain Symmes to join an expedition into the interior of the earth, which was represented as a hollow sphere, having a large opening at the eighty-second parallel of north latitude. The idea of the existence of a hollow space within the earth was set at rest by the measurement of the average density of the planet, and the contrary view was advanced that the globe is a mass of great specific gravity. The constituency of this mass, whether it is fluid or solid, with only local bubble-like spaces; filled with fluid matter has not been determined; but the calculations that have been made contradict the theory of a wholly fluid interior.

Several methods have been adopted for ascertaining the mean density of the earth, to the older of which a more accurate method has been added within a few years. An account of the methods hitherto adopted, and the results obtained by them is here given.

The trade of Macon, Ga., in morphine alone is worth \$10,000 a year—that is, morphine and opium together. A prominent dealer says that few people have any idea of the number of morphine and opium eaters there are in that city and the surrounding country.